

DDI- 05679/84

3 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM :

Director, Current Production and Analytic Support

SUBJECT : White House Operations Center

Bob,

1. I would like to encourage your personal attention and assistance to this request to have the eight (8) Agency Watch Officer positions at the White House Operations Center reclassified one grade level higher. (The present classification authorizes four GS-12 and four GS-11 positions.) The background and reasons for this request are outlined below.

2. In 1983, PMCD downgraded the Watch Officer positions at the White House during the course of a routine classification review of CPAS. This action produced a multi-faceted backlash. First, as could be expected, it completely demoralized the highly trained and dedicated incumbent officers occupying the Watch positions. Secondly, and possibly even more important from a detrimental standpoint, it indicated to the White House and the other government agencies involved in the Watch Center that the CIA did not consider this a serious operation.

3. This degrading action, which CPAS contested at the time, has resulted in two predictable occurrences: first, it has made it extremely difficult to recruit and retain the highly qualified and devoted personnel required to man such a key function; secondly, the political backlash of the reclassification now threatens the CIA's longstanding position of preeminence in the White House Operations Center which, if not corrected, will no doubt affect the Agency's long-term ability to present its viewpoints on intelligence matters to the nation's top leadership.

4. Both of the problems noted in paragraph three above have been substantiated by a recent Inspector General inspection which interviewed Agency Watch Officers, as well as non-Agency management personnel involved with the Center's operation.

5. I request your personal attention in the resolution of this problem. I also wish to assure you that if I or my staff can assist you in any way possible, please feel free to give me a call. The Deputy Director for Intelligence shares my concern about this matter, and he will strongly support my efforts to remedy the situation.

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